

City of Morgantown

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

September 29, 2020

To protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, personal attendance at the meeting was not permitted. This meeting took place via WebEx at <https://cityofmorgantown.my.webex.com/meet/cityofmorgantown> using the meeting number 793 734 477. The meeting was broadcasted live on Morgantown 15 and live-streamed via the City of Morgantown website at <https://morgantownwv.viebit.com/>. The public could also listen live by calling 408-418-9388 and using the access code 793 734 477.

If members of the public wished to comment on a particular issue or public hearing, they should fill out the public comment sign-up form on our website found at: <http://bit.ly/MCC092920>. Additionally, the public could submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cwade@morgantownwv.gov.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held by via Webex on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Via Webex Interim City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Mayor Ron Dulaney, Jr., Deputy Mayor Rachel Fetty, and Council Members Bill Kawecki, Zackery Cruze, Jenny Selin, Dave Harshbarger, and Barry Wendell.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Fetty.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Ward & Boundary Update Presentation – Sarah Barnes Chair – <https://arccg.is/T1LO1>

Commission Chair Sarah Barnes presented to council with proposed changes to the boundaries of the city's wards. The proposed ward boundary map included input from the public and would balance the wards, as much as possible, by counts of registered voters and population based on the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) or decennial Census.

2. Healthy Streets Initiative Presentation – Damien Davis City Engineer, and Drew Gatlin Staff Engineer

City of Morgantown Engineering Department staff presented on the city's Healthy Streets Initiative that aims to create places where citizens can safely recreate while practicing social distancing. Healthy Streets will allow residents to use the low-traffic areas to walk, run, wheelchair roll, roller-skate, or bike. Healthy Streets are achieved by creating soft-closures of select low-traffic streets and maintaining access only for residents, deliveries, and emergency personnel.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Deputy Mayor Fetty opened the public portion and asked if there was anyone wishing to speak.

Dr. Jerry Carr President of the NAACP spoke in support of the Special Committee on Community Policing and Citizen Review Board.

Robert Cohen, member of the NAACP spoke in support of the Special Committee on Community Policing and Citizen Review Board.

Sarabeth Holder spoke in opposition of the Special Committee on Community Policing and Citizen Review

City of Morgantown

Board.

There being no others wishing to speak, Deputy Mayor Fetty closed the Public Portion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Ward & Boundary Update

After discussion, this item was moved to the October 6, 2020, Regular Meeting agenda.

2. Healthy Streets Initiative

After discussion, no action was taken on this item.

3. Ordinance amending City Code to establish Parking Violation Fees

After discussion, this item was moved to the October 6, 2020, Regular Meeting agenda.

4. Ordinance amending article 917 entitled "Community Forestry"

Interim City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. Dave Barnett, Chair of the Tree Board, explained that the Community Forest Ordinance is designed to set professional standards for planting and maintaining trees throughout the city. It is meant to help preserve endangered species and increase urban canopy in the city. The ordinance would also decrease the number of tree board members by one. After discussion, this item was moved to the October 6, 2020, Regular Meeting agenda.

5. CARES Act Funding and Budget Revision

Interim City Manager provided an update on CARES Act Funding and the City's Budget. The city has received \$6,912,0263.93 in CARES Act funding which has been used to supplement revenue shortfalls brought on by the pandemic and to build up a contingency fund to help guard against future shortfalls. The City Manager also proposed potential budget revisions which would allow city departments to make specific, much needed purchases which were delayed due to COVID-19. After discussion, this item was moved to the October 20, 2020, Regular Meeting agenda.


EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to West Virginia State Code Section 6-9A-4(b) (9) to discuss acquisition or development of Real Estate in the Fifth Ward. Motion by Mayor Dulaney, second by Councilor Selin, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Present: Interim City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council. Time: 9:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion by Mayor Dulaney, second by Councilor Selin, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 10:33 p.m.



City Clerk



Mayor